

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for continually joining paper webs, comprising means able to compress the said webs (5, 6) onto an impression cylinder or roller (4) while the webs advance toward an outlet section of the apparatus, characterized in that the said compressive means include a roller or cylinder (2) which exhibits a hard outer surface (20) supported by an underlying elastic surface (23).
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2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the said elastic surface (23) is in turn supported by a rigid surface (21).
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the said outer surface (20) of said compression roller (2) is made up of a helicoidal body having preset pitch and direction and being applied on said elastic surface (23).
4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the said outer surface (20) sheathes completely the said elastic surface (23).
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the outer surface (20) of said compression roller (2) is made of steel.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the elastic surface (23) of said compression roller (2) is made of rubber.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the said impression cylinder (4) is provided with surface reliefs and/or depressions.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the said impression cylinder (4) is an embossing cylinder.

9. (Currently Amended) Method for carrying out the union of two paper webs (5, 6) by a mutual compression of the concerned webs, characterized in that it includes compressing the said webs between a pressure roller or cylinder (2), provided with a hard outer surface and an underlying elastic surface (23), and an impression roller or cylinder (4) provided with surface reliefs and/or depressions.

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10. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 9 characterized in that the said impression cylinder is an embossing cylinder (4).